

Surface Transportation Board
Section on Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

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Re: New England Transrail, LLC
Notice of Exemption seeking to establish a
Class III rail carrier and construction of a bulk re-load center
At 51 Eames Street, Wilmington, MA 01887

June 26, 2003

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is an expression of opposition to the application of exemption for the establishment a Class III rail carrier and construction of a bulk re-load center proposed at 51 Eames Street, in Wilmington, Massachusetts.

The proposed property, which is now owned by Olin Chemical Corporation, poses severe health and environmental threats. It has been determined that a known human carcinogen called n-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) has originated at the Olin site and is responsible for closing five town water wells affecting 60% of our water supply from the Maple Meadow Brook Aquifer. It is unknown as to how long Wilmington residents have been exposed to and have been consuming this carcinogen. The federal health agency, ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) has initiated a water distribution study to determine the extent of exposure to the public. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health-Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment has determined a greater than 2-times the average occurrence in four types of cancers in children. The states top epidemiologist will analyze data to determine an environmental common exposure route.

This site is listed as a Tier 1A site; receiving the worst rating in the Massachusetts tier rating listing of contaminated sites. Its contamination is far reaching, involving surface water contamination affecting the Aberjona River from the Olin property to the south and east and into the Maple Meadow Brook aquifer northwest and west. Olin has hastily eliminated chemicals of concern in their analyses and thus these chemicals are not addressed in their remediation alternative considerations.

It is apparent to both the residents involved in the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and the Town of Wilmington's environmental consultant that Olin needs to complete its Phase II evaluation and identification process before proceeding with remediation design and redevelopment of the property. In fact, The Town of Wilmington's environmental consultant has recommended a complete revision of Olin's Phase III remedial source alternative plan as they have not addressed the recent finding of NDMA and they have not considered Site condition changes from the shut down of the public drinking water wells.

STB Finance Docket 34365 – New England Transrail, LLC – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of Boston and Maine Railroad Company

Multiple form letters were submitted in this proceeding. Copies of the letters are available in the public docket.